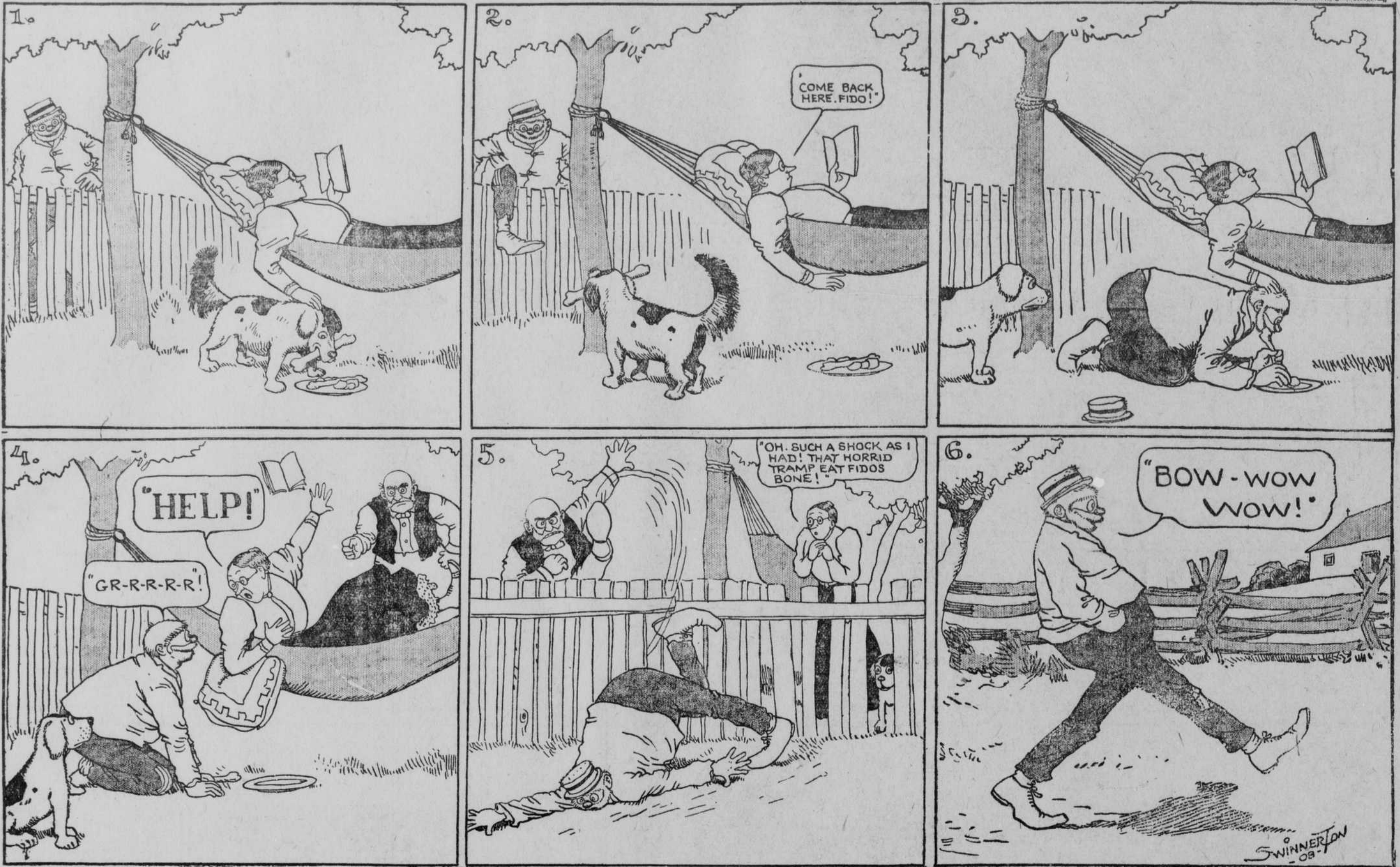


Pink Whiskers Bow-Wow!

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All About The Cullinan Diamond Which Is Now Being Cut

King Edward's Big Diamond

By Frank G. Carpenter

YOU have all heard of the Cullinan diamond, the mighty stone which was recently presented by the government of the Transvaal to King Edward VII and is now being cut in Amsterdam. It is by several times the largest diamond ever found, and its value is over a million. I am writing these notes on the edge of the mine from which it was taken. From where I stand I can look right down into it, or rather over it, for it covers eighty acres, the area of a good sized farm. It is known as the Premier diamond mine, and it is by far the largest diamond mine in the world. On that hill at the left I can see the great gear, with its crushing, washing and pulsating machines. They are fed by the caravan of cars which are now flying up to it over that inclined roadway.

The mine itself is black with workmen. There are 9,000 of natives at work digging out the ore and loading it on cars. Here men are blasting, there they are laying railroads, and farther over digging tunnels down into the blue ground. There at one end of the mine are the offices. They consist of an iron-roofed building worth under \$2,000, and a more substantial headquarters for a business which employs thousands of men and has an output of millions a year. Farther back are the compounds in which the native workers are kept under guard, and just back of me is the railroad station with its hotel and few stores, forming the town of Cullinan.

The World's Biggest Diamond Mine. I have already described the mighty diamond pipes of Kimberley from which, until lately, 85 per cent of the world's diamonds came. I have told you how each of them was made by a volcano which bored its way up out of the bowels of the earth through the hardest of rock, and left there a deposit of blue ground sprinkled with diamonds. Some of the Kimberley pipes have been tested half a mile downward, and they find that the diamonds are as thick as the bottom as they were at the top. This mine here is of the same formation, save that the pipe

is so large that all the De Beers' mines could be put inside it and have room for several big diamond mines in addition. The Premier pipe is now well outlined. It is a half mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. Within it there is nothing but this blue ground sprinkled with diamonds. Every yard of it contains precious stones. In 1906 more than 90,000 carats were taken from it, and during the first six months of 1907 the output was more than a million carats.

It is now only four years since the mines began to be worked and since then it has been producing diamonds at the rate of a carat and a quarter per minute for every minute of every day and night, year in and year out. A carat-and-a-quarter diamond makes a mighty pretty engagement ring. Cut and set it would be worth at least \$100. This mine has been turning out such a ring every minute. That gives you some idea of its value. The total output in money has been over \$25,000,000, and within the past year or so it has been paying several millions a year in dividends.

The Premier vs. the De Beers. This Premier mine is comparatively new. The great pipes at Kimberley, which belong to the De Beers company, have been worked for more than a generation, and until this mine was discovered it was believed that they would always form the chief source of the world's supply of precious stones. For the past thirty years almost all of our diamonds have come from them; and they still have values worth hundreds of millions of dollars in sight. They have produced more precious stones than all the other mines of the world put together; and almost all the diamonds now worn by man came from Kimberley or thereabouts. The product has sold for something like \$900,000,000.

The Premier mine was discovered in 1902. As I have said, it has already produced over \$25,000,000, and its size is so enormous that it is bound to seriously affect the diamond market of the future. So far the mine has scarcely been touched. It is being worked almost on the surface; and it is estimated that at the present rate it will take twenty years to get out the blue ground down to a

depth of 350 feet. When it is remembered that the Kimberley pipe has been mined to a depth of more than 2,500 feet, and that the De Beers is now more than 2,000 feet deep, and that neither shows any diminution of the output of diamonds to the carload of blue earth mined, the enormous possibilities of this mighty eighty-acre diamond pipe can be appreciated.

I understand that the De Beers company rather sneered at the Premier mine, until lately, and that they claimed its diamonds did not compare with those of Kimberley in their brilliancy. Nevertheless within the past two months the two companies have entered into a working agreement by which the diamond output is so restricted as to not flood the world with precious stones and thereby bring down the prices.

A Chat With the Diamond King. During my stay here I have met Mr. T. M. Cullinan, the man who discovered this mighty diamond pipe and from whom the Cullinan diamond is named. Five years ago he had only a few thousand dollars, but he is now worth ten or fifteen millions, and he might be called the world's diamond king. He is the chairman of the company which owns the mine, and he still spends much of his time at the works. Mr. Cullinan looks more like a miner than a millionaire. He is a well-built man of 55 years of age, and is the picture of health. He has a dark complexion and dark hair and eyes. His forehead is broad, his nose straight, and his lower jaw heavy, showing determination and grit. I understand that he started life poor and that some of his first money was made as a bricklayer.

As he got a little ahead he became a contractor, and as such had a series of ups and downs which left him at the age of fifty worth perhaps \$50,000. I asked him how he had made his great strike. He replied:

"Diamonds have been long known to exist in this region. They were discovered here years ago, and one alluvial claim had been pegged out and floated at a capitalization of \$150,000 only a short distance from where the Premier is. About four years ago I was looking up this valley, prospecting for diamonds. I



T. M. CULLINAN, with the great diamond in his hand.

found several leads with good indications and they all seemed to go toward this point.

The property then belonged to a Dutchman who had something like 1500 acres of land. He was using it for stock raising and was renting out small patches to the natives about. He knew of the possibilities of diamonds being found in the land, and he made his price accordingly. He refused to sell except as a whole and that for a lump sum of \$250,000, or about \$250,000 in American money. I had prospected enough to know that the ground contained alluvial diamonds, and I had no doubt but that the mine could be floated to pay a good profit on the above price. I therefore put in my own money and induced others to join me. We then bought the farm and the result is the Premier.

"Had you any idea of the enormous possibilities of the property?" I asked. "No. My wildest dream did not reach the conceptions of this biggest diamond mine of the world and of the discovery of the largest diamond ever known. I thought there might be a diamond pipe somewhere upon the farm, and I was pretty sure that the land contained alluvial diamonds to give us our money back, even if no pipe was discovered."

"What was your original capital?" "It was just the same that it is today; namely, \$250,000. Of this we paid \$250,000 to Prinsloo, the Dutchman who owned the land, and used the balance as a working capital."

"And what became of the Dutchman?" "He is still living in a little mud hut not far from here," replied Mr. Cullinan. "He made a good bargain in selling his

farm. He paid only \$250 for it and he got \$250,000. He refused to give me an option on the property at \$150,000, allowing me three months to prospect to see whether I would take it or not. He afterward sold another farm, which cost him less than this, for \$100,000, so that altogether he realized about \$300,000 of your money for his lands. Nevertheless, notwithstanding his wealth, he still sticks to his mud hut."

The Premier Mine. I asked Mr. Cullinan to tell me something about the Premier mine. He replied:

"It is so big that we really cannot say just how big it is. The pipe has an area of about eighty acres. It is shaped somewhat like a pear, and the walls are almost vertical. We have already sunk diamond drills to a depth of a thousand feet, and have found diamonds in the blue all the way down. We do not know how much farther the pipe extends, but probably to a great height. The great Cullinan weights over three thousand carats, and we have discovered a number of three or four hundred carats each. We found one the other day which looked to me as though it had been chipped off the Cullinan."

"Will you not soon flood the world with diamonds if you keep on at this rate?" "I think not. Whenever times are good the demand increases and the people who buy such things are more numerous every year. The Japanese are now coming into the market, and within recent years you Americans have been buying more than ever before. There is a temporary slump at present on account of the hard times, but that will pass away and you will want more than ever."

"Do you not think it would pay to cheaper the prices?" "No. I think the high prices are to a large extent the cause of the demand. Make diamonds as cheap as glass and no one would wear them."

Finding the Cullinan. During my stay here I have seen models of the Cullinan diamond made of crystal and have talked with Mr. Cullinan about it and also with the miner who discovered it. The diamond is just about as big as my fist. It is almost the size of a glass tumbler, and it weighs over one and one-third pounds. It is about four inches long, two and one-half inches thick and about two inches wide. If you can imagine a chunk of glass of irregular shape weighing about twenty ounces you may have some idea of the shape and size of this, the greatest of all diamonds.

The stone was discovered by Mr. F. W. Wells, the mine overseer of the Premier. He was superintending the work as I walked through the diggings today. I asked him some questions as to his great find. He said:

"We discovered the Cullinan diamond on the 25th of January, 1904. I had a gang of natives working not far from the center of the pipe. We had gone down to a depth of about five feet from the surface and had been taking out good stuff all day. The sun was just setting and we were about to knock off when I saw something white and sparkling lying on a slope of the blue. The rays of the setting sun caught it and it looked like fire. I took up a pick and rushed to the spot. The earth was already loose about the stone and in a short time it was in my hand. It was so big that I was dazed at my discovery. I ran with it across the mine to the office, burst into the manager's room and laid down the stone before Mr. McHardy and Mr. Cullinan. They were as much astonished as myself. We then weighed it and the next day the word was sent out that the biggest diamond of the world had been found."

A Costly Mail Package. It is interesting to know how this great diamond got to London. Think of the

responsibility of carrying something as big as your fist, so small that you could put it in your coat pocket and weighing little over a pound, worth a million dollars or so from Pretoria, South Africa, to London. It would be a brave man who would risk it without a guard, and if a thief could get hold of it it might be easily smuggled and carried away. Nevertheless the diamond got to London and that without guards of any kind, save those of his majesty's mails. It was put up as a package, registered and sent by parcel post. I asked Mr. Cullinan if he was not afraid to risk so much in that way. He replied:

"I don't know of anything that could be safer. No one knew what was in the package, and it was carried with less damage by mail than had it been guarded by soldiers."

I understand, however, that the stone was insured for two million dollars, although the government received less than thirty cents for carrying it, and the maximum amount which could have been recovered from it in case of loss was less than ten dollars. At the same time a dummy parcel supposed to contain the diamond is said to have been ostensibly taken to Cape Town and thence to Southampton, while the real treasure lay as an ordinary parcel in the mails.

A Royal Present. Just how much the Cullinan diamond is worth no one knows. Nothing like it has ever been discovered and there is no standard of comparison. It may be worth two million or more. According to the laws of the Transvaal, 50 per cent of all the diamonds go to the state, and the government here had their 50 per cent interest in it. It purchased the balance of the mine owners, and then made a present of the diamond to the King of England. This was on the occasion of his majesty's birthday last November.

After the presentation the diamond was given over to the authorities at Scotland Yard and it has since been taken to Holland to be cut. It is now in the hands of the great diamond-cutting establishment of Asscher & Co., who employ five or six hundred men in their factories at Amsterdam, and who are noted for their fine workmanship. It was this company which cut the Excelsior stone, the largest diamond in the world before the discovery of the Cullinan, and it has handed the best of the uncut stones discovered in Africa during the past 15 years.

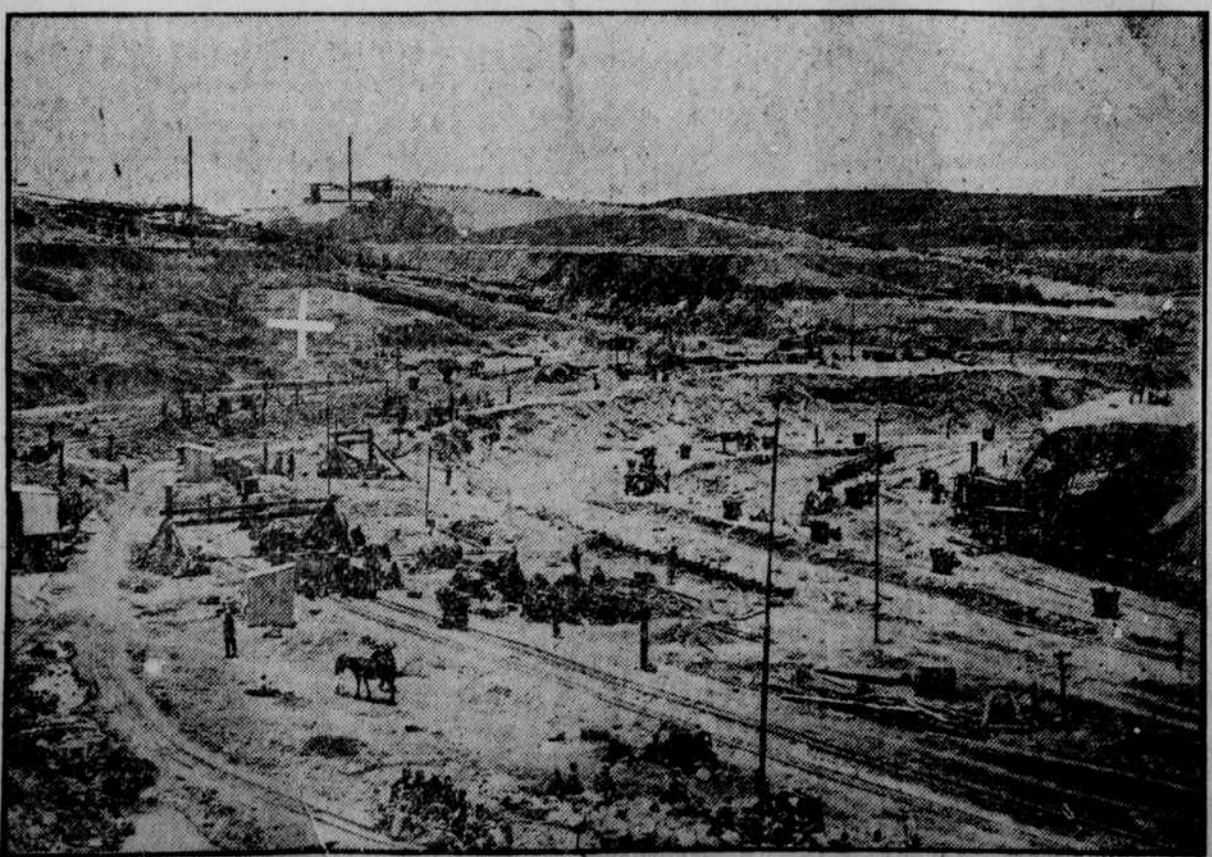
The Great Diamond Split. I am told here that the great diamond has already been split and that one of the pieces, which will be cut and polished,

weighs 1,000 carats. This will be made into a pear-shaped brilliant and it will be by far the largest diamond of the world.

It will take more than a year to cut and polish the stone, and it is not yet known just how many diamonds will be made from it. The diamond is kept at night in a special safe in the vaults of the factory and is guarded by the Dutch police. The vaults have walls of cement and iron three-fourths of a yard thick and the door is an eight-inch plate of steel with nine concealed locks. The diamond is taken from the safe every morning by the head of the firm. He is armed with a revolver and accompanied by ten members of his staff, who leave him while he secretly unlocks the door. The stone is then carried to the workroom, which is especially built for this purpose and is given over to a specialist, Henri Koe, who does the cutting and polishing. He is locked in the room with the diamond and is not allowed to go out, even for his meals. The polishing being done on a plate of three inches in diameter, which is four inches wider than that used for ordinary stones. The plate runs at a rate of 2,400 revolutions per minute, and the polishing is performed by a paste of crushed diamonds and oil.

Back to the Land. From Charities and the Commons.

A real start in putting immigrants on the land has been made with a colony of Russian Jews near Hawkins, Wis., 100 miles from St. Paul, Minn., which is the work of one man, John Raffleson, who was compelled to give up factory work by an accident. He took to peddling and while going about into the country decided to make himself a missionary for drawing his co-religionists out of the cities and back to the soil. The new colony is small, but it owns 900 acres, set on long-time payments at \$10 an acre. It is co-operative in its plan and will have a co-operative store. Its officers, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and all the heads of families sit as a court in case of any dispute arising. Raffleson goes into Milwaukee and Sheboygan and persuades people to go out to the new colony. He has thus far succeeded in getting a nucleus of ten families and says he wants only for more as a beginning. These people are working as the old pioneers worked, clearing the land of timber and slowly beginning their planting. They will undoubtedly be equally successful.



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